

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Claims 1 through 8 and 19 through 31 are now pending in the application. Claims 9 through 18 have been canceled. Claims 1 through 8 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Claims 19 through 31 have been added to accord Applicant an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 25, and 31 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 16, and 17 are objected to for the reasons set forth in the Official Action. In response, Claims 1 through 8 have been amended *inter alia* to overcome the grounds of the objections. Claims 9 through 18 have been canceled making moot the objection of Claims 9, 11, 16, and 17. It is respectfully submitted that the objections to the claims has been overcome.

Art Rejection

Claims 1 through 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,032,013 (Niizawa).

The rationale underlying the rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejection

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 calls for d developer supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus. The container includes a rotatable container body for containing a developer; a drive coupling member, provided substantially at a rotation center of the developer supply container, engageable with a driving member provided in the image forming apparatus, wherein the drive coupling member has a drive transmitting portion for transmitting a rotational force received from the driving member to the container body; an engaging portion, provided with the container body, engageable with the drive transmitting portion to receive the rotational force. The drive transmitting portion is disposed so as to be idly rotatable for a sufficient time after start of rotation of the drive transmitting portion by the rotational force and before engagement with the engaging portion.

Niizawa discloses a developing agent supplying apparatus 30 including a toner bottle 12, which is mounted to the apparatus. A supplying apparatus 30 comprises the coupling 40, which is operatively connected to a motor 52 by gears 48 and 50. The coupling 40 engages with the toner bottle 12. When the motor 52 starts rotating, an engagement portion 54 provided on the coupling 40 rotates, and the engagement portion 54 abuts to a projection portion 26 of the toner bottle 12. Accordingly, Niizawa simply discloses a relation between the supplying apparatus and the toner bottle.

The present invention includes a feature of a relation between a drive transmitting portion provided on a drive coupling member and an engaging portion provided on a container body. The drive transmitting portion is disposed so as to be idly rotatable for a sufficient time after start of rotation of the drive transmitting portion by the rotational force and before engagement with the engaging portion.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Niizawa does not disclose a feature recited in amended Claim 1 and therefore does not anticipate amended Claim 1.

Newly-Presented Independent Claims

Newly-presented independent Claim 25 also is directed to a developer supply container including a rotatable container body, a drive coupling member, and an engaging portion as recited in amended Claim 1. However, in Claim 25, the drive transmitting portion is engageable with the engaging portion at a position radially away from a rotational axis of the developer supply container.

Niizawa also does not disclose or suggest the feature that a drive transmitting portion is engageable with an engaging portion at a position radially away from a rotational axis of a developer supply container as recited in independent Claim 25.

Newly-presented independent Claim 31 calls for a developer supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus. The container includes a rotatable container body for containing a developer, the container body is provided with a developer discharge opening; a sealing member, provided substantially at a rotation center of the developer supply container, for unsealably sealing the developer discharge opening wherein the sealing member includes a drive coupling portion engageable with a driving member provided in the image forming apparatus, and a drive transmitting portion for transmitting a rotational force received from the driving member to the container body when the sealing member is at an opening position where the developer discharge opening is opened; and an engaging portion, provided in the container body, engageable with the drive transmitting portion. The drive transmitting portion is disposed so as to be idly rotatable for a sufficient time after start of rotation of the drive transmitting portion by the

rotational force and before engagement with the engaging portion. The sealing member is movable from the opening position to a resealing position where the developer discharge opening is resealed.

As above-noted with respect to Claim 1, Niizawa does not disclose or suggest the feature that a drive transmitting portion is disposed so as to be idly rotatable for a sufficient time after start of rotation of said drive transmitting portion by the rotational force and before engagement with said engaging portion.

It is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 25, and 31 recite features which are neither disclosed nor suggested in Niizawa and the other art of record.

Dependent Claims

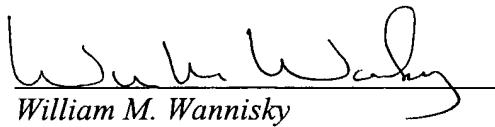
Claims 1 through 8 and 19 through 24, and 26 through 30 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 1 and 25 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicant's invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Wannisky
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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